



Massachusetts Port Authority
One Harborside Drive, Suite 200S
East Boston, MA 02128-2909
Telephone (617) 428-2800
www.massport.com

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September 30, 2009

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BOSTON, MA

The Honorable Ian A. Bowles, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Re: *Logan Airport 2008 Environmental Data Report (2008 EDR) - EOE A #3247*

Dear Secretary Bowles:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), I am pleased to submit for your review, the *Boston-Logan International Airport 2008 Environmental Data Report (2008 EDR)*.

In 2008, volatile fuel prices and a growing global economic recession led to Logan Airport's first decline in passenger levels since 2001. Total aircraft operations at Logan Airport also decreased, though by a slightly smaller percentage than passengers. As outlined below, this *2008 EDR* considers the effects of airlines operating much more efficiently and flying more passengers with fewer aircraft operations, and the associated reduction in ground access activities. While the gains in environmental quality as a consequence of reduced flight activity are noteworthy, it is also important to recognize that as the economy and aviation industry recover, Massport anticipates increases in activity levels and some increases in environmental effect. As described throughout the *2008 EDR*, Massport's commitment to minimize those effects remains strong.

Content and Structure

The *2008 EDR* responds fully to the Secretary's Certificate on the *Boston-Logan International Airport 2007 EDR* and reports on the status of airport operations, environmental conditions, and Massport milestones achieved in 2008. The document incorporates comments made on the *2007 EDR* and consists of a single volume reporting on the following 2008 categories:

- Highlights for 2008, including an overview of sustainability initiatives at Logan Airport;
- Passenger levels, aircraft operations, aircraft fleets and cargo volumes;
- Planning, design and construction activities at Logan Airport;
- Regional transportation;
- Key environmental indicators (Ground Transportation, Noise Abatement, Air Quality/Emissions Reduction, and Water Quality/Environmental Compliance and Management);
- Mitigation status of Logan Airport projects;
- Secretary's Certificate on the *Boston-Logan International Airport 2007 EDR* and other comment letters received on the *2007 EDR*;
- Individual responses to comments received on the *2007 EDR*;
- Proposed scope for the *2009 EDR*;
- Distribution list; and
- Supporting technical appendices.

Review Period, Distribution, and Consultation

A 30-day public comment period for the *2008 EDR* will begin on October 7, 2009, the publication date of the next Environmental Monitor, and will end on November 6, 2009. The distribution list included as Appendix D indicates that all parties on the distribution list will be sent a copy of the *2008 EDR* on CD. A smaller number of reviewers will be sent hard copies of the *2008 EDR*. The full *2008 EDR* will also be available on Massport's website (www.massport.com).

Operating

Boston Logan International Airport • Port of Boston general cargo and passenger terminals • Tobin Memorial Bridge • Hanscom Field • Boston Fish Pier • Commonwealth Pier (site of the World Trade Center Boston) • Worcester Regional Airport

A MEPA consultation session on the *2008 EDR* is scheduled for 4:00 PM on October 29, 2009, at the Logan Office Center, One Harborside Drive, East Boston (Logan Airport) in the Human Resources Training Room on the first floor. Additional copies of the *2008 EDR* can be obtained by contacting Laurie Goodrich at (617) 568-3507 during the 30-day public comment period.

Future Filings and Timing

Since 1997, Massport has followed a five-year filing cycle for the *EDRs* and *Environmental Status and Planning Reports (ESPRs)*, with *EDRs* being filed for each year between the *ESPRs*. The last Logan *ESPR* was filed for calendar year 2004. Following the recent sequence of annual environmental filings, the environmental filing scheduled for next year was previously anticipated to be in the form of an *ESPR* rather than an *EDR*. However, due to the current economic downturn, as described in this *2008 EDR*, activity levels at Logan Airport and associated environmental impacts continue to remain well below historic levels and recent peaks. In 2009, near-term activity levels and associated environmental effects are also expected to remain well below levels previously analyzed for Logan Airport. Thus, the forecasted aviation growth presented in the *2004 ESPR*—the predicate upon which the *ESPR* schedule was initially established—has not occurred. Accordingly, Massport proposes to prepare a *2009 EDR* in lieu of the scheduled *ESPR*. Where appropriate, Massport will continue to identify and address any longer term aviation and environmental trends in each annual filing whether that be in the form of an *EDR* or *ESPR*. A proposed scope for the *2009 EDR* is included as Appendix C of the current filing.

Massport hopes that you and other reviewers of the *2008 EDR* find the document informative and complete. We look forward to your review of this document and to close consultation with you and other reviewers in the coming weeks. Please feel free to contact me at (617) 568-3524 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Stewart Dalzell
Deputy Director, Environmental Planning and Permitting

cc: *2008 EDR* Distribution List (Appendix D in the *2008 EDR*)